

What is claimed is:

1. A polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence, which is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

2. The polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, which contains an amino acid sequence that is the same or substantially the same as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6.

3. The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:26.

4. The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 2, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:12.

5. The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:24 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:49.

6. The polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 2, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:6 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:47.

7. A DNA comprising a DNA bearing a base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1.

8. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:23.

9. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:4.

10. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:25.

11. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:10.

12. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:48.

13. The DNA according to claim 6, wherein the base sequence encoding the polypeptide according to claim 1 is the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:46.

14. A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 6.

15. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 14.

16. A method for manufacturing the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, which comprises culturing said transformant according to claim 15 and producing the polypeptide according to claim 1.

17. An antibody to the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1.

18. A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide or its salt according to claim 1, which

comprises using the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1.

19. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, comprising the polypeptide or its salt according to claim 1.

20. A compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 18 or using the screening kit according to claim 19.

21. A pharmaceutical comprising a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 18 or using the screening kit according to claim 19.

22. A pharmaceutical comprising the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1.

23. An agent for the prevention/treatment of bone and joint diseases or pathologic angiogenesis, comprising the polypeptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1.

24. A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to claim 17.

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